

Badlands Field Trip

National Park Service
Department of the Interior

Badlands National Park



Habitat Wanted

Onsite lesson plan for teacher-led Field Trip to Badlands National Park

Grades: 2-4

Length: 45 minutes

Presented by: Teacher

Materials: habitat wanted cards

Objectives:

1. Identify components of a habitat
2. Recognize appropriate habitat for certain plants & animals of Badlands National Park

Procedure:

- Discuss the term “habitat”. The environment in which a plant or animal lives is called a habitat. A habitat includes food, water, shelter, and space in an arrangement appropriate to the animal’s needs. Students can shout, “Food, water, shelter, space; a habitat we call this place!”
- Ask students to look around at the environment. Today, we are going to look closer at some of the habitat requirements of certain plants and animals that live here in Badlands National Park. In a few moments I will give you “Habitat Wanted” cards. Your job is to find a good habitat for that plant or animal! There will be hints about what to look for on the card.
- Lead all students in the following example. What if you were a cactus? Where would you want to live? What kind of habitat does a cactus need? Point out dry sunny slopes.
- Remember, we are not looking for plants and animals; we are looking for places where they might like to live because there is good habitat for them.
- Divide the group into teams of 4 students. Give each team a packet of habitat cards.
- Remember to respect the park, tread lightly, and stay on the trail!